



# MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

**Meeting Date:** October 17, 2019

**Agenda Item:** Annual Rule Commercial Bait Seining Waters

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 Minutes

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**Background:**

A bait fish seining license is required for: 1) persons 15 years of age and older to seine for and transport bait fish for commercial purposes in Montana; and 2) for any person who seines for and has in their possession more than 24 dozen non-game bait fish. The commission may designate waters that are allowed for these purposes, and FWP describes these waters annually in the Commercial Bait Seining Application Form.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:**

If approved by the commission, the proposed list of approved waters will be released for public comment. Based on public comments the list will be modified and presented to the commission for final approval at the December meeting.

**Alternatives and Analysis:**

No new waters are proposed for commercial bait seining. There are two changes for clarification in the Central Fishing District, and two reservoirs that are proposed to be removed from the Eastern Fishing District.

**Agency Recommendation and Rationale:**

Evaluation by biologists and program managers have determined that the waterbodies on the proposed list can support commercial bait seining. The department recommends approving the proposed list to collect public comment.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move that the commission approve the proposed Commercial Bait Seining Waters list and collect public comment.